

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image coder which ~~compares a predetermined number of orthogonal transformation factors from an orthogonal transformation unit with quantization thresholds equal in number to the orthogonal transformation factors, and selectively quantizes the~~ a predetermined number of orthogonal transformation factors ~~on the basis of the comparison result in coding processing,~~ comprising:

a first scan converter, adapted to rearrange the orthogonal transformation factors in a first scan sequence which is different from a zigzag scan sequence and output the predetermined number of the rearranged orthogonal transformation factors at a time; and

a second scan converter, adapted to rearrange quantized orthogonal transformation factors in the zigzag scan sequence and output the rearranged quantized orthogonal transformation factors.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The coder according to claim 1, wherein the first scan sequence is a sequence in which odd-numbered samples are arranged in a forward direction

from a start of the zigzag scan sequence, and even-numbered samples are arranged in a reverse direction from an end of the zigzag scan sequence.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The coder according to claim 1, wherein the first scan sequence is a sequence in which odd-numbered samples are arranged in a forward direction from a start of a raster scan sequence, and even-numbered samples are arranged in the forward direction from an end line of the raster scan sequence.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The coder according to claim 1, wherein the first scan sequence is a sequence in which odd-numbered samples are arranged in a forward direction from a start of a raster scan longitudinal sequence, and even-numbered samples are arranged in the forward direction from an end line-of the raster scan longitudinal sequence.

8.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An image coding method of ~~comparing a predetermined number of orthogonal transformation factors with quantization thresholds equal in number to the orthogonal transformation factors, and selectively quantizing the a~~

predetermined number of orthogonal transformation factors ~~on the basis of the comparison result in coding processing~~, comprising:

a first scan conversion step, of rearranging the orthogonal transformation factors in a first scan sequence which is different from a zigzag scan sequence and outputting the predetermined number of the rearranged orthogonal transformation factors at a time; and

a second scan conversion step, of rearranging quantized orthogonal transformation factors in the zigzag scan sequence and outputting the rearranged quantized orthogonal transformation factors.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing an image coding program for causing a computer to ~~compare a predetermined number of orthogonal transformation factors with quantization thresholds equal in number to the orthogonal transformation factors and selectively quantize the~~ a predetermined number of orthogonal transformation factors ~~on the basis of the comparison result in coding processing~~, comprising:

code for a first scan conversion step, of rearranging the orthogonal transformation factors in a first scan sequence which is different from a zigzag scan sequence and outputting the predetermined number of the rearranged orthogonal transformation factors at a time; and

code for a second scan conversion step, of rearranging quantized orthogonal transformation factors in the zigzag scan sequence and outputting the rearranged quantized orthogonal transformation factors.

26. (Canceled)